

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-16, which are all of the pending claims, over the prior art, principally U.S. Patent 6,092,114 (Shaffer, et al.). In particular, Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11-13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being fully anticipated by Shaffer, et al; and Claims 3, 10 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Shaffer et al. in view of a document titled "Conversion Service" (CERN). Claims 5 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Shaffer, et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,549,918 (Probert, Jr. et al.); and Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Probert, Jr. et al. in view of CERN. Claims 5, 7 and 16 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite, and the Examiner also objected to the drawings and to the specification.

In objecting to the drawings, the Examiner noted that a reference number used in the specification is not shown in the drawings, and that two reference numbers shown in Figure 1 are not used in the specification. To address the Examiner's objections, this opportunity is being taken to submit a substitute Figure I and to amend the specification. More particularly, pages 4 and 5 of the specification are being amended to add the numbers 113, 114 and 115 to reference, respectively, voice data, video data, and a computer system file. Also, the new Figure 1 includes a text formatting item 120. Several minor informalities are also being corrected in the specification, care being take to avoid adding new matter.

Further, in response to the Examiner's objection to the specification, pages 10 and 11 are being amended to fill in the blank spaces with the appropriate patent application data.

In view of the above-comments and the changes made herein, the Examiner is asked to reconsider and to withdraw the objections to the drawings and specification.

Claims 5, 7 and 16 are being amended to overcome the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §112. More specifically, in Claim 5, "UCS" is being changed to "Universal Server," and "the description module" is being changed to "a description module." The appropriate antecedent basis for "Universal Server" is provided by Claim 1, from which Claim 5 depends.

Claim 7 is being amended to change "the computer" and "the operating system" to "a computer" and "an operating system," and to change "the data format" to "the format of the data." It is believed that, with these changes, these terms are now appropriately set forth in the claim. In addition, on line 24, "the system" is being changed to "the operating system," and the earlier occurrence of the "operating system" in Claim 7 provides the appropriate antecedent basis for this term. Also, in order to improve the form of Claim 7, some language is being deleted from the claim, including the phrase "for example..." to which the Examiner objected.

Claim 16 is being amended to change "UCS" to "Universal Server," and the antecedent basis for this term is provided by Claim 12, from which Claim 16 depends.

Applicants' Attorneys have carefully reviewed Claims 5, 7 and 16, and it is believed that these claims, as presented herewith, are clear and definite and fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The Examiner is, accordingly, respectfully requested to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §112.

With respect to the prior art cited by the Examiner, Applicants note that there is an important difference between the present invention and the systems shown in Shaffer, et al. and Probert, Jr. et al. With the present invention, the user computer makes the determination as to

whether a file or data needs to be re-formatted, but if that determination is made, the user computer sends the file or data to a server to be re-formatted.

With the procedure disclosed in Shaffer, et al, the server, not the user computers, makes the determination as to whether a file needs to be re-formatted, while in Probert, Jr. et al. the user computer is used to re-format the files.

The approach taken by the present invention provides a very advantageous distribution of the work load.

To elaborate, a user computer may receive files from many sources in many ways, and for example, from many servers over the Internet or from other networks. In accordance with the present invention, the user computer can determine whether files from all of these sources need to be re-formatted. This eliminates the need to provide all of these many sources with the ability to make this determination.

At the same time, once a user computer determines that a file needs to be re-formatted, that file is sent to a server to be re-formatted. This can be a specially designated server that is provided with all the modules, and associated databases and applications needed to reformat a wide range of files into an equally wide range of new formats. This eliminates the need to provide each user computer with all of these modules, databases and application resources.

The other references of record have been reviewed and they too, whether considered individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the above-discussed aspect of the present invention.

Independent Claims 1, 7, 8 and 12 are herein being amended to clarify the above-difference between this invention and the prior art. In particular, Claims 1 and 12 are being amended to indicate expressly that the computer is used to determine if the data file is

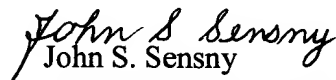
compatible. Similarly, Claim 7 is being amended to indicate that the computer determines whether the format of the data is compatible with an operating system on the computer, and Claim 8 is being amended to indicate that the computer includes means for determining if the data file is compatible with the computer. These independent claims also include the limitation that, if the data or file is not compatible, the data or file are transmitted from the computer to a server, which can re-format the data or file.

Because of the above-discussed differences between Claims 1, 7, 8 and 12 and the prior art, and because of the advantages associated with those differences, these claims patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claims 2-6 are dependent from, and are allowable with, Claim 1; Claims 9-11 are dependent from Claim 8 and are allowable therewith; and, likewise, Claims 13-16 are dependent from, and are allowable with, Claim 12. Accordingly, the Examiner is asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102 and the rejections of Claims 3, 5, 10, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103, and to allow Claims 1-16.

For the reasons advanced above, the Examiner is asked to reconsider and to withdraw the objections to the drawings and to the specification, and rejections of Claims 5, 7 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112. The Examiner is also respectfully requested to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102, and the rejections of Claims 3, 5, 10, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103, and to allow Claims 1-16. If the Examiner

believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is asked to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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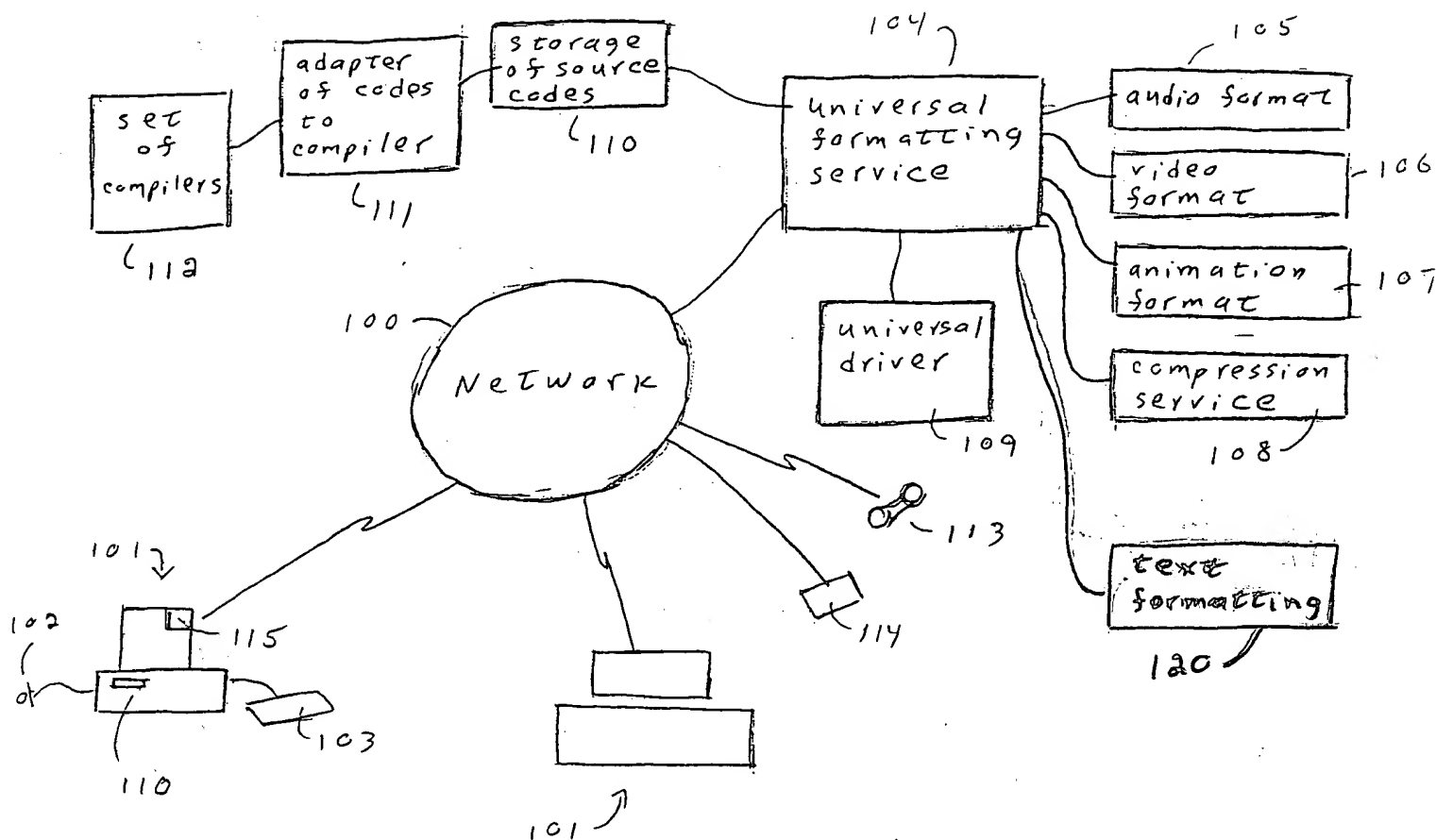


Fig. 1